statistics regarding outstanding Central taxes arrears are not maintained Industrial house-wise. The time and effort involved in the collection of information relating to a large number of companies belonging to these houses, from field formations spread all over the country, will be enormous and not commensurate with the objective sought to be achieved.

(b) Administrative, legal and other measures as considered necessary (in each case) are taken to recover the outstanding tax arrears.

Request by Karnataka to direct Banks to help Aksya Programme

2290. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka Government has launched a Aksya Programme for the benefit of the very poor children of school going age, living in the rural areas;

(b) whether State Government had requested his Ministry to direct commercial banks to open individual accounts in the name of the respective mother and child to avoid the misuse of the incentives that would be given to the child; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Government of Karnataka launched Akshaya Scheme with effect from 1-11-1991 to improve school attendence, reduce dropouts and prevent child labour. Under the scheme, school going children from Standard I to IV were to be given cash incentive of Re. 1/- per day by way of crediting the same in the joint account to be opened in the banks in the name of each child and mother father. The implementation of the scheme was considered by the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) and a decision was taken to implement the same Indian Bank's Association (IBA), however, keeping in view the enormous workload involved, took a view that it would be feasible to open the accounts in name of schools instead of in the name of the child parents. IBA accordingly took up the matter with the State Government of Karnataka with the request to adopt the one school one account norm. The State Government have accordingly modified the scheme. As per the revised scheme, Headmasters will withdraw the incentive amount from their accounts and distribute the same to the mothers of the beneficiaries.

Request for Waiver of Excise Duty on Ferro-Concrete Pipes by Government of Karnataka

2291. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Karnataka have requested for waiving of the full excise duty on the ferro-concrete pipes which are being supplied by private manufacturers for Cauvery Water Supply Scheme for drinking water to Bangalore City;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this regard in view of the public interest ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A request was received for providing excise duty exemption on cement lined/covered steel pipes fabricated by contractors for supply to Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board for execution of Cauvery Water Supply Scheme III stage.

(c) Exemption from the levy of whole of the duty of excise on such products was issued on 22-2-1991, initially valid upto March, 1992 which was extended upto 31st August, 1992.

Losses incurred by Companies Financed by Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India

2292. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM :
DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH :
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :